



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

## DELIVERING FOR NORTHUMBRIA

**Putting people at the heart of policing is my number one priority, and I'm proud to have recently taken over as the Police and Crime Commissioner tasked with delivering on this.**

I was elected on a promise to be a people's commissioner, ensuring victims are at the centre of all we do, while at the same time standing up to austerity in order to get our police force the resources it needs to keep us safe, and leading a new focus on tackling and preventing violent crime.

My office is already making great progress towards those aims, but we do so on the back of all that was achieved by the former commissioner, Dame Vera Baird QC, and this annual report covering the period April 2018 to March 2019 reflects on this work.

As the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria I intend to build on Dame Vera's work and will be producing a Police and Crime Plan that shows how we can continue that progress while at the same time giving people an even bigger say in shaping their police force.

I feel it is important to say that all that was achieved in those 12 months was done so by a commissioner's office and force dedicated to providing high level public services despite ongoing austerity.

Through spending cuts and unfunded cost pressures, Northumbria Police have

lost £142m since 2010, with the force down more than 1,000 officers. Both Dame Vera and myself have made clear that we will not sacrifice neighbourhood policing, and we have made and delivered on this commitment because people across the region have told us it's what they want most.

Over the next year I'll be updating you on the work of my Violence Reduction Unit, a team dedicated to ensuring that where people are at risk of entering a life of violence there is a way out for them.

I'm getting on with the job of ensuring your police force focuses on the issues that matter to you, and I look forward to hearing from you in 2020.

Best wishes  
Kim McGuinness

Tackling anti-social behaviour continues to be a key focus for the Police and Crime Commissioner. There have been a number of successes during the last year, the main one being that incidents of anti-social behaviour have fallen.

The police have implemented community focused partnership working to tackle ASB and this initiative is starting to have a positive effect. Northumbria Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner encourage local residents to report ASB through campaigning initiatives such as working with Nexus to tackle ASB on the Metro.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:**

"In the year ahead, I will ensure that Northumbria Police support you in keeping your neighbourhood a safe and friendly place. I want the police to not only continue to target those who cause disruption but also to need to improve how they follow up on cases of anti-social behaviour in order to help prevent continued problems."

## REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



## PUTTING VICTIMS FIRST

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Northumbria Police are proud that victims remain at the heart of everything we do. Northumbria Police have worked hard to ensure there is early contact with victims of crime, however we know that there is more to be done. The force introduced a comprehensive training programme that included specialist training for call handlers so they can easily identify vulnerable members of the public contacting the police. This programme has had a big impact in terms of helping officers identify and prioritise vulnerable victims.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:**

"Local residents should be under no doubt that Northumbria Police will always put victims first. No ifs no buts. I will continue to challenge Northumbria Police to ensure they deliver for victims of crime and that extra support is provided where needed."

Northumbria Police is your police force and prior to the start of the new financial year, the then Police and Crime Commissioner consulted with residents about police funding. Northumbria police force has been hit hard by cuts to its budget. Since 2010, Northumbria has had to make £142m of cuts and efficiencies to manage the reductions placed on us by the Government. The funding consultation showed that local residents appreciated the work that their officers do and want to support their efforts. Our police officers and staff appreciated your continued support.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:**

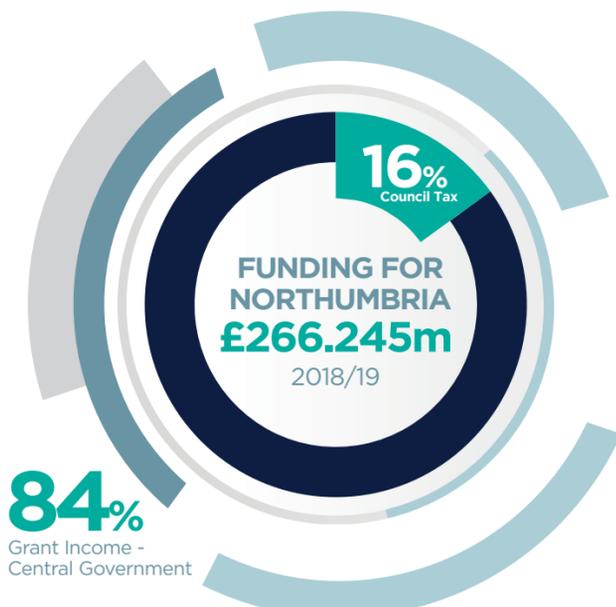
"Across our region we are seeing households paying through their council tax for services the Government once funded. I have lobbied the Prime Minister for a fair funding settlement for Northumbria and I will look at every area of spend to see if further savings can be made. I will squeeze every penny out of every pound to ensure Northumbria Police continue to deliver outstanding value for money."



## THE MONEY WE RECEIVE AND HOW IT'S SPENT!

POLICING SERVICES ALLOCATION	RESOURCE
Local Policing	50.4%
Investigations	9.0%
Public Protection	9.2%
Dealing with the Public	7.0%
Criminal Justice Arrangements	7.0%
Intelligence	5.7%
Operational Support	6.1%
Roads Policing	2.2%
Investigative Support	2.5%
Police and Crime Commissioner (includes public insurances etc)	0.9%

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also supports many organisations who help deliver the Police and Crime Plan through Ministry of Justice Grants and the Commissioner's Community Fund. You can find out more about this work at [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)



## EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This was a new addition to the plan last year, as the Police and Crime Commissioner has a responsibility to bring partners together to help deliver an effective criminal justice system. The aim is to ensure:

- There is strong support for victims and witnesses;
- Fair, just and effective progression of cases through the criminal justice system;
- That people who commit crimes are caught but are also helped with rehabilitation;
- Reducing entry into the criminal justice system by early intervention to address the causes of crime.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:** "We've seen some great work already this year on ensuring the criminal justice system works for victims. That includes supporting victims and witnesses to attend court and give evidence, resolving cases at the earliest opportunity to avoid unnecessary delay and early intervention work with first time offenders. In the next phase of this work I am particularly keen to look at waiting times in the criminal justice system and efforts to reduce cases of victims and witnesses dropping out of the system."



## RURAL AND WILDLIFE CRIME

Wherever you live in the Northumbria Police area, you have the same right to a dedicated police service as anyone else, from towns and cities to villages and farms. As part of the Commissioner's commitment to rural policing, 2018/19 saw a number of proactive investigations put in place, reinforcing that rural crime continues to be high on our agenda here in the Northumbria area. Effective policing and partnership work is paying off and, as always, we urge residents and partners to report anything they see that is suspicious – together we are making a difference.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:**

"I will be out and about in our rural communities, seeing first-hand how our officers are working alongside volunteers to tackle rural and wildlife crime. I want Northumbria Police to build on the good work they already do, to show those who commit crimes in our rural areas that there are no hiding places and they will be caught. Rural policing is as important as any other area, and represents a huge part of our force and its focus."

Cybercrime is an ever-increasing part of police work. The internet brings with it many benefits, however, it can also bring a great deal of harm and damage to people and businesses. Northumbria Police has set up a dedicated team at the forefront of tackling such crime. Based in Byker, the team has the capacity, skill set and infrastructure to clamp down on offenders committing crimes such as hacking, Malware and viruses.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:**

"Online crime, including threatening behaviour, is taking up an ever larger proportion of police time and we need to make sure we utilise all the skills and expertise we can to help us tackle the problem head on. Northumbria Police have a great team of officers, staff and volunteers making a difference. As your Commissioner, I will be ensuring the force gets the resources it needs to tackle cybercrime and I will work closely with the Chief Constable to ensure that those affected by cybercrime know help and support is available."

## NO PLACE FOR CYBER CRIME



## CUTTING CRIME



In Northumbria we have encouraged anyone who is a victim of crime to report it – no matter what it is. Of course, this may cause the number of recorded crimes to rise in Northumbria, but we believe this a price worth paying as it shows that local residents have the confidence to report crime to the police.

Across our region Northumbria Police work closely with each of the six local Community Safety Partnerships on tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and crime. One great example of this has been around improvements to safety in what is known as the Night Time Economy, and it

is pleasing to see that nearly 90% of those who use our towns and cities on a night time feel safe.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:** "Cutting crime continues to be a priority for Northumbria Police. They have instigated a number of operations that have helped bring criminals before the courts and I want to see more of this, particularly where it helps safeguard vulnerable people. Since taking over in the role I have instructed the Chief Constable to make all forms of hate crime a key area for the force. No-one should have to be a victim of crime simply for being who they are. I will also increase the number of hate crime champions in workplaces and communities to offer help and support to those who may need it."

## BEING YOU IS NOT A CRIME

Being you is not a crime, targeting you is. There's no place in our society for intolerance and prejudice. Put simply, hate crime will certainly not be tolerated by Northumbria Police. Throughout the year, Northumbria Police has engaged with members of all our communities, to raise awareness and highlight all the support that is on offer throughout the force area. It really is important that all victims have the confidence to report hate crimes, if not to the police, then to another trusted organisation.

**Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness, said:** "My message to anyone suffering any form of prejudice or discrimination is to speak up. Nobody should suffer alone, especially not when help is at hand. If you have been hurt, threatened, abused, harassed or intimidated or suffered any other crime because of your race, faith, a disability, sexual orientation, age or gender identity, this is hate crime and together we can stop it."



## COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE

Northumbria Police is placed first of the 43 forces in England and Wales for "dealing with community priorities" and "can be relied upon to be there when needed" (measured December 2018) and has the highest results compared to most similar forces for seven of the eight national measures of public confidence. 96% of people feel safe in their local community. Building on this, further improvements will be seen in the service we provide to victims from initial contact until conclusion of the case. Northumbria Police will work hard to identify and improve any gaps in service provision and ensure focus remains on the victims.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:**

"Let me be absolutely clear, neighbourhood policing is what helps enhance community confidence. I will secure funding to recruit new police officers above and beyond what money the government is providing. As long as I am your Police and Crime Commissioner, you know neighbourhood policing is safe with me. I will continue to squeeze every penny out of every pound to reinvest back into policing."



## DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE

We've seen real progress this year as we continue to make domestic and sexual abuse a key priority for your police force.

That work has included the excellent progress made under the Domestic Abuse: a Whole System Approach project. This scheme has brought together experts from across our region to share the best ways of ensuring domestic abuse does not remain a hidden crime. Crucially it has also been to prevent domestic abuse from happening by targeting those harmful, serial and repeat domestic abuse perpetrators.

Alongside this has been the work of the Operation Encompass and Operation

Encompass: The Next Steps schemes which see the police work with schools to help children who experience domestic violence at home.

My office secured Home Office funding to employ 12 School Safeguarding Liaison Officers. Between them they have built a strong bond of trust with the 629 schools in the Northumbria Police Area.

The aims of the project are to deliver early intervention and education to children around healthy relationships and domestic abuse, provide drop-in sessions for children, parents and school staff to obtain advice and support, and to upskill staff in schools around how to identify the signs of domestic abuse and what support

is available for victims and children experiencing it.

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, said:** "It takes a lot of courage to come forward and report domestic and sexual abuse, whether female or male. Northumbria Police already have high levels of satisfaction (92%) in the support they receive, but we want to see that even higher. Support and advice will continue to be available to anyone who suffers abuse through my supporting victims fund. Northumbria Police will continue to do all they can to support victims. My aim is to take this work to the next level, looking at prevention as one of the key parts of our domestic abuse focus. I will ensure that Northumbria Police continue to have the funds they need to tackle domestic abuse."

## CONTACT DETAILS

Kim McGuinness is your voice within Northumbria Police, she is on your side. Kim is always happy to hear from you, to hear what you think Northumbria Police do well and what could be improved. Your fantastic support has ensured that we continue to listen and deliver for the communities we serve right across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. There are a number of ways to get in touch with us –

**Email** – enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

**Phone** – 0191 221 9800

**Write** – Kim McGuinness, Victory House, Balliol Business Park, Benton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8EW.

**Twitter** – @northumbriapcc

**Facebook** – Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner